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New Era for Wuchopperen as Local Grown Talent Returns

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One of Queensland's oldest Aboriginal community-controlled health services has successfully head-hunted a senior Canberra health official for the newly-created position of CEO.

Wuchopperen Health Service Ltd with more than 25 years experience providing primary health care services appointed Joy Savage, a local Cairns woman, to its top position.

Wuchopperen Chairperson, Rachael Wargent, said that Ms Savage returns to Cairns after five years working as a senior manager for the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in the Federal Department of Health and Ageing.

"The creation of the new position of CEO and Joy's recruitment to fill it follows a major organisational restructure and is a mark of maturity and development of the organisation," said Rachel. "Joy has worked in Aboriginal health for more than twenty years and her return home is a positive move for the organisation the far North Queensland Indigenous community.

"Her rare combination of qualifications including policy, management and strong commitment to good governance will prove a great asset to this organisation," said Rachel. "She is familiar with both the health needs of our local area and the changed policy environment at the Australian Government level, which means she is particularly well placed to lead our organisation into a new era of service delivery."

Joy Savage said that Wuchopperen had significantly expanded in the years she has been away and that she intends to oversee a period of organisational consolidation as well as developing Wuchopperen's research capacity.

"I am delighted to be back as the new CEO and I anticipate exciting times ahead," she said. "The challenge ahead for Wuchopperen is to provide high quality care that reduces the burden of ill-health and gives children the best possible start in life and build our capacity to engage in high-priority research.

"This dual approach will provide tangible benefits for the local community."

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